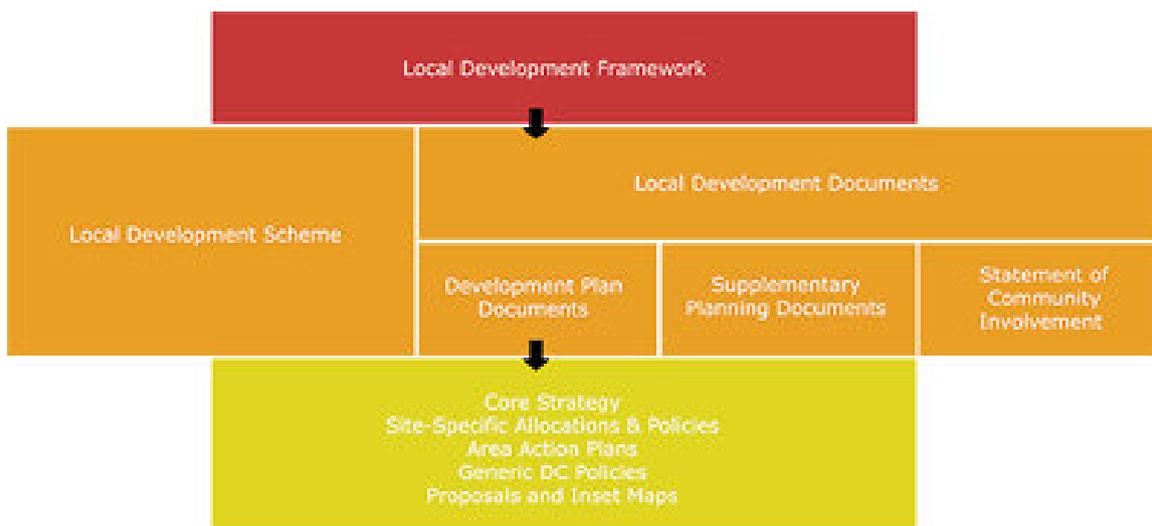




*Spatial Planning for Sport:  
Creating Local Policy*

## Introduction

Local Development Frameworks are the principal means by which policy for sport and recreation will be delivered. The significant changes to the development of policy introduced by the Planning Act 2004 mean that the place of sport will have to be re-asserted in Core Strategies and attendant Development Plan Documents. The following sections outline how policies for sport and the representation of sports interests fit into the LDF preparation process – pre-production, production and examination/adoption.



## 1. PRE-PRODUCTION

The pre-production stage should ensure that local planning authorities have a comprehensive understanding of the main issues to be addressed through their document(s). This should enable them to set out the spatial vision and spatial objectives for their area (paragraphs 4.8-4.11 of PPS12).

The main activities include survey and evidence gathering, development and management of the evidence base, and establishment of a sustainability appraisal process which should be programmed in to key stages of the preparation and consultation process of the document. A number of strategic planning tools which have been developed by Sport England which could be used to assess demand and provision.

### Local Development Scheme (LDS)

“[The LDS] is a public statement identifying which local development documents will be produced, in what order and when. The LDS is the starting point for the community and stakeholders to find out about the authority’s planning policies in respect to a particular place or issue, and the status of those policies” (PPS12 Companion Guide p.19). Through a project plan, the LDS outlines the programme and content of the LDF.

### *How should sport be represented?*

The LDS is periodically reviewed. The place of sport and recreation will not necessarily be obvious (as in the presence of sport and recreation-specific Supplementary Planning Documents, for example), but the range of documents which could be relevant will be detailed. These include the Core Strategy, Area Action Plans and the Proposals Map, along with detailed supporting technical studies.

### *Checklist*

- Has a local needs assessment for sport and active recreation been undertaken, or a review planned and timetabled in the LDS, accordingly?
- Can the opportunity be taken through the periodic review of the LDS to include sport specific, or sport-related documents such as SPD?

## **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

Sets out how the community and stakeholders will be involved throughout the LDF preparation process. It is subject to independent examination and consultation on each LDD needs to comply with what is said in the SCI.

The SCI sets out how the community and stakeholders will be involved throughout the LDF preparation process. It is subject to independent examination and consultation and each Local Development Document (LDD) needs to comply with what is said in the SCI. The Companion Guide to PPS12 identifies a protocol for the preparation of the SCI, involving the need to:

- Establish who the local communities and stakeholders are;
- Identify the key stages of the local development document preparation process;
- Identify the resources available to manage community involvement;
- Discuss with local communities the possible nature and scale of their involvement;
- Consider which methods of community involvement to deploy and when;
- Set out the process for reporting back to communities;
- Prepare the statement of community involvement and submit draft for public consultation;
- Consider representations and revise the statement of community involvement accordingly;
- Submit statement of community involvement to independent examination

### *How should sport be represented?*

Sport England planning officers working in regional offices will need to be included in the consultation process on relevant Local Development Documents at appropriate stages. Sport England is a statutory consultee on developments involving playing fields and as a minimum should be involved in policy development in this regard. Sport England has built up extensive guidance on these matters. Other relevant bodies (e.g. County Sports Partnerships) might be included in the community engagement process detailed in the SCI. As part of the protocol for the preparation and periodic revision of the SCI, there are opportunities for sport and recreation interests to be represented and promoted. This could include both formal and more informal contact between the local planning authority and sport and recreation interests such as Sport England regional planners, County Sports Partnerships and Community Sports Networks. Further detail on the role of these organisations is set out here (Enabling Local Delivery note).

### *Checklist*

- Is Sport England specifically identified in the SCI as a statutory consultee on playing field issues?
- Is Sport England identified as a non-statutory consultee on the protection of sports facilities and the provision of new sports facilities as part of major developments?
- Have local interests such as major sports clubs and leisure management companies been identified as potential consultees on applications involving significant changes to sports facilities?

### **The Evidence Base**

The development and implementation of policies using a sound evidence base is one of the central tenets of the new planning system. To this end, the PPS12 Companion Guide (p.34) states that: “comprehensive survey and monitoring information will be needed to develop evidence bases which help authorities to identify opportunities, constraints and issues for their areas. Authorities will need to assess and build on this to ensure they have sufficient social, environmental, economic and physical information to identify the spatial characteristics of their locality. Local communities, stakeholders and commercial interests should be involved in the development of the evidence base. This will help to achieve effective document preparation as well as strengthening the commitment of key delivery agencies and the wider community to the implementation of the framework as a whole. Although a broad evidence base is desirable, authorities will need to adopt realistic approaches, drawing upon existing sources of information (e.g. from other local strategies, corporate initiatives and community-led appraisals) where possible. Authorities will need to identify where to focus their efforts in terms of preparing the evidence base”.

#### *How should sport be represented?*

Sport England has been for some years been building a comprehensive database and developing a suite of tools to assist planners and others to secure a better understanding of the provision of, and needs for, sport and recreation opportunities. The range of information and resources will be invaluable in helping to build the evidence base that must underpin policy development and implementation. This includes the application and refinement of the sustainability appraisal of policies and plans which needs to make particular use of available evidence.

### *Checklist*

- The range of information gathered by Sport England, and updated by local authorities, in relation to facility planning (Active Places Power).
- Information available through PPG 17 audits and needs assessments of open space and sport and recreation facilities.
- Parallel data gathering and analysis exercises undertaken as part of initiatives such as green infrastructure planning and playing pitch strategies which could provide opportunities for joint working.
- The consideration of the quality and accessibility of provision as part of the preparation of Local Area Agreements.
- Significant cross-boundary issues, particularly relating to facility provision (see Planning Across Boundaries).
- Information from other local authority strategies, including sport and recreation strategies, play strategies and community strategies.

## 2. PRODUCTION

Sport England has a long-standing record of engagement with local planning. In response to changes in the planning system, this response needs to evolve accordingly. The following pages present the elements of the Local Development Framework (LDF) which is being drawn up in every local planning authority, identifying their characteristics and how sport should be represented within them. Where appropriate, examples of good practice are given, and these will be updated as experience with the new system grows. This guidance is aimed at those with an interest in how sport should, and potentially could, be represented in local planning documents. The emergence of spatial planning and the connections to be made with sport are covered in an introductory guidance note: Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation. The advice offered here builds on this introduction.

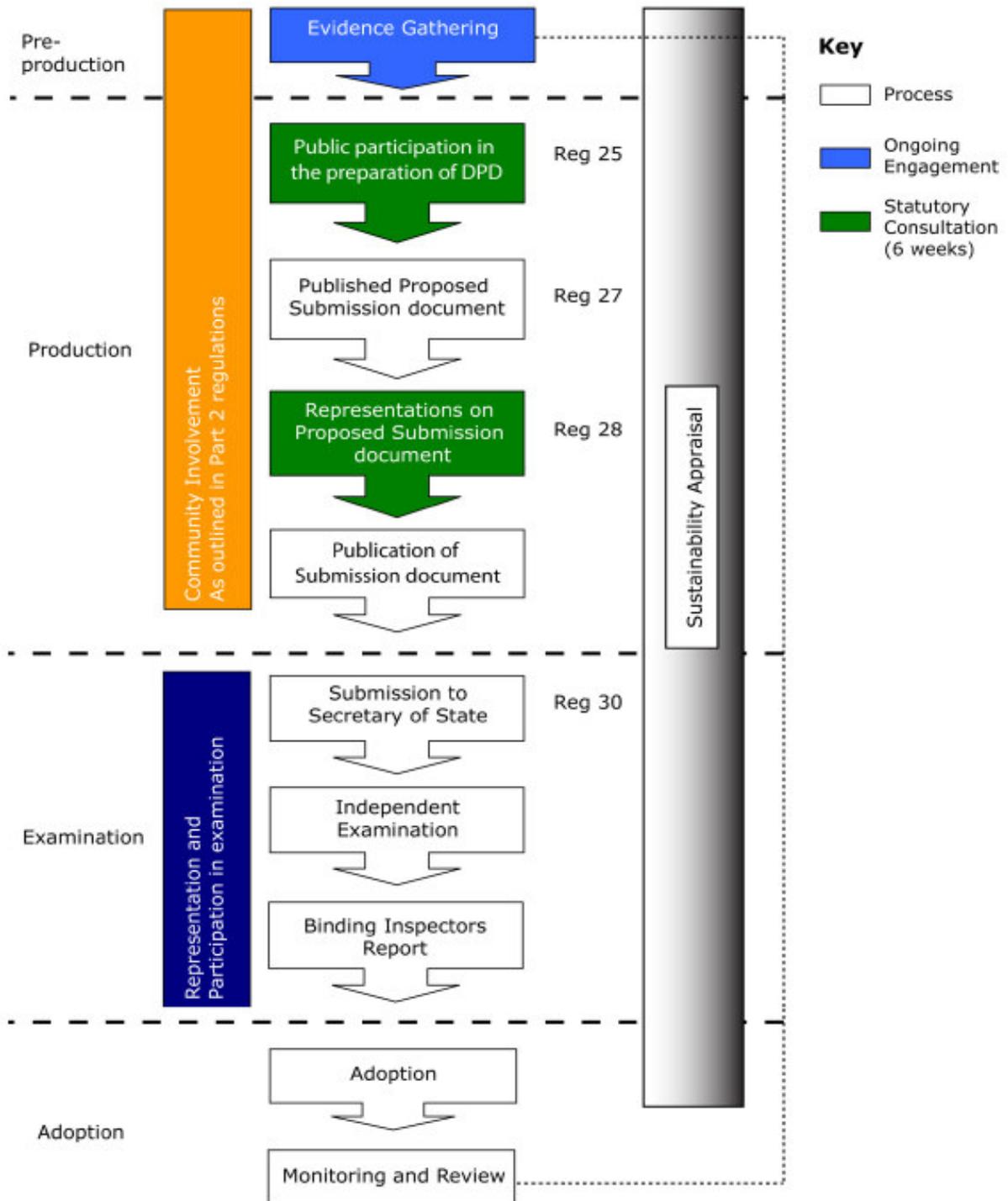
### Core Strategies

The Core Strategy sets out a spatial vision, strategic policies and framework for sustainable development at local level. The Core Strategy needs to be in conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy, and all other development plan documents prepared by the LPA need to be in conformity with it. The Core Strategy is the centrepiece of the spatial planning approach of the Local Authority and provides the reference point for the preparation of more detailed elements of the LDF. The Companion Guide to PPS12 (p.20) suggests that core strategies should:

- “contain a clear spatial vision from which spatial objectives, strategic policies, monitoring and implementation frameworks flow;
- be guided by sustainable development principles (using sustainability appraisal);
- be linked to the sustainable communities agenda, helping determine the broad location of new housing and employment land necessary to meet the requirements of the regional spatial strategy or any sub-regional strategy contained within it;
- be in general conformity with regional spatial strategies;
- avoid repeating national planning policies in the relevant regional spatial strategy. Instead, the core strategy should articulate these policy objectives in the local context.

Specific land allocations should not be set out in the core strategy. Instead, the core strategy should set out the broad locations for land use, which can then be outlined in detail in site-specific allocations in other development plan documents. It can also use criteria to identify locations and priorities for preparing area action plans”.

For any development plan document, the following linked steps should be carried out:



Preparation of the LDF needs to be informed, amongst other policy documents, by the Community Strategy. The relationship between the two is not always straightforward and consequently some effort is required to establish a co-ordinated response which goes beyond stating a common vision. The following table sets out some themes likely to be common to both, and which could be developed within the Core Strategy or signposted for more comprehensive treatment elsewhere, such as a Supplementary Planning Document.

## Checklist

The following checklists identify issues which might be addressed in the preparation of a LDF Core Strategy: The first checklist takes a broad overview of issues, whilst the second checklist sets out more detailed reference points for the development of policy either in the Core Strategy or other DPDs. The latter might include a specific DPD covering sport and recreation, for example.

Topic	Does the Core Strategy ...
Objective- setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out clear objectives for sport and recreation?</li> <li>• Reflect community strategy objectives for sport and recreation?</li> <li>• Safeguard facilities?</li> <li>• Promote accessible facilities?</li> <li>• Development of a strategic framework for the provision of sport opportunities?</li> </ul>
Developing and using the evidence base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ a sound evidence base to help inform policy making?</li> <li>• Identify a hierarchy of sport and recreation provision?</li> <li>• Use policies which anticipate future sport and recreation needs?</li> </ul>
Connecting policies and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise the role of sport in contributing to a wide range of spatial planning issues: regeneration, health promotion, crime reduction, quality of life etc?</li> <li>• Establish connections between different policy arenas?</li> </ul>
Promoting sustainability and quality of life issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable design of sports facilities?</li> <li>• Promote sustainable resource management/stewardship through the relationship between sport and the natural environment?</li> <li>• Promote mixed use schemes such that there is an appropriate presence of sport and recreation and as part of a balanced community?</li> </ul>
Developing spatial planning approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise contributions to spatial planning initiatives such as greenspace networks or better use of the urban fringe and the wider countryside?</li> <li>• Develop policies which respond to the expressed needs and demands of marginal or controversial sports, with due regard to resource protection and wider sustainability issues?</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for sport and recreation to make a contribution to unprogrammed development proposals?</li> </ul>

Using planning obligations and conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out the provisions in respect of sport and recreation that will be expected as part of new development?</li> <li>• Ensure that any loss of sport and recreation facilities is adequately compensated for through like-for-like replacement, or similar?</li> </ul>
Annual Monitoring Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor effectiveness of policy implementation in respect of the protection and provision of sport facilities?</li> <li>• Compare performance between local authorities?</li> </ul>

## Linking the Core Strategy to the Sustainable Community Strategy

### HEALTH

Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation	Ideas for Policy Development
Tackling health issues such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting physical activity and a focus on preventative opportunities</li> <li>• Developing stronger links between health and sports development programmes</li> </ul>
Increasing levels of awareness of, and access to, healthier lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging healthy life habits through the provision of integrated facilities (e.g. health, sport, libraries)</li> <li>• Providing healthy living information in a variety of formats</li> </ul>
Increasing levels of physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting increases in participation in sport and active recreation</li> </ul>

### ENVIRONMENT

Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation	Ideas for Policy Development
Increasing the number and range of opportunities for enjoyment of the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the number and quality of facilities such as cycleways, greenways and footpaths</li> <li>• Encouraging more and better use of the local environment as part of a healthier lifestyle</li> </ul>
Ensuring that people have access to a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and implementing strategies and local standards for playing pitches and other recreational</li> </ul>

range of types of open space within reasonable distance of their homes	<p>open space provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and investing in playing fields and other open spaces, to maintain and enhance quality and accessibility</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for open-access playing facilities to engage young people</li> </ul>
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## ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Making workplaces more activity friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing opportunities for physical activity during and around the working day</li> <li>• Encouraging employers to adopt active workplace policies</li> </ul>
Increasing inward investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing in community, leisure and cultural facilities and in public open space to benefit local communities and enhance an area's image</li> </ul>

## CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Reducing overall crime rates and fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing better access to opportunities for formal and informal sport and recreation activities for young people to help divert them from crime, disorder and drugs</li> <li>• Establishing stronger links between crime prevention and sports development programmes</li> <li>• Providing targeted programmes of sporting activities for young people at risk of offending</li> <li>• Using sport, art and music as a tool for engagement with young people at risk</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Increasing levels of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using sports, arts and culture as a means of raising</li> </ul>

educational attainment	aspirations and attainment
Increasing levels of sport active recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting opportunities for young people to participate in sport, both in and out of school</li> </ul>

## TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Identifying convenient and safe alternatives to driving to work, school, shopping and leisure activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting green travel plans amongst employers</li> <li>Promoting school travel plans</li> <li>Promoting the provision of a range of transport options to local services</li> <li>Carrying out needs assessments of transport for young people</li> </ul>
Increasing cycling and walking activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the development of local cycle route networks</li> <li>Publicising opportunities for active travel</li> </ul>

## HOUSING

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Providing accessible sport and recreation facilities as part of new housing developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing policies and Supplementary Planning Documents on developer contributions for local community sport and recreation needs</li> <li>Promoting and using the ideas developed as part of Sport England guidance on Active Design, including initiatives such as Home Zones</li> </ul>

## CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Increasing the range of cultural and sporting opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting participation in activities</li> <li>Developing and implementing action plans for cultural activities including sport, heritage and play</li> <li>Continuing to advance sport development programmes</li> </ul>

Improving the quality, accessibility and, where appropriate, number of local sport and recreation facilities (indoor and outdoor)•Identifying priorities for the provision of multi-sport community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing community use of sports facilities at education sites</li> <li>• Promoting participation in sport and recreation by all age groups</li> <li>• Developing policies and Supplementary Planning Documents on developer contributions for local community sport and recreation needs</li> </ul>
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## SOCIAL INCLUSION & QUALITY OF LIFE

<b>Issues Relevant to Sport and Active Recreation</b>	<b>Ideas for Policy Development</b>
Strengthening sense of local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the provision of high quality recreational and cultural opportunities</li> <li>• Increasing membership of sport and recreation clubs through capacity-building and profile-raising</li> </ul>
Providing access to services and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing informal sports facilities, especially for young people</li> </ul>

## Site-Specific Allocations

This development plan document (DPD) sets out precise areas of land to which proposals and policies set out in the core strategy will apply, with the proviso that “the identification of sites should be based on a robust and credible assessment of the suitability and availability of land” (PPS12 Companion Guide p.20). The document should not form part of the core strategy which will “allow authorities to update allocations in light of changes to other local development documents or implementation on the ground. It will be important for the site specific allocations document to set out clearly the links to relevant policies in other development plan documents” (PPS12 Companion Guide p.103). The PPS12 Companion Guide (p.103) provides the following checklist of good practice in preparing a site-specific allocations document:

- Hold discussions at an early stage with developers, landowners and the community to identify and consider their site-specific proposals.
- Consult on these proposals and assess alternative options (using the sustainability appraisal) to produce the preferred options document.
- Consult on the preferred options document, and consider any alternative proposals submitted as representations.

- In the submission development plan document set out a schedule for each allocation that:
  - is linked clearly to the submission proposals map;
  - sets out links to relevant policies in other development plan documents (which may include area action plans);
  - specifies where and how supplementary planning documents will apply (e.g. planning brief); and
  - provides details of any specific criteria for development (or sets out links to specific policies that provide relevant criteria) e.g. planning gain sought, accessibility thresholds.
- Keep the site specific allocations development plan document up-to-date in light of:
  - changes to national policy or the regional spatial strategy;
  - changes to other development plan documents and supplementary planning documents;
  - implementation on the ground e.g. completion of specific developments; and information from the annual monitoring report regarding progress on policy implementation.

*How should sport be represented?*

Site-specific allocations will provide a basis for assessing what sport infrastructure is needed, how this can be integrated with other developments and with other needs (e.g. health and culture) and how such provision might be funded through development obligations. Based on a robust local needs assessment (demanded by PPG17), there should be the identification of existing key facilities (indoor and outdoor, built and open [such as playing fields]), highlighting any deficiencies. The needs assessment should also be used in the consideration of what specific sites should be identified for sport, such as how sports provision relates to future housing being proposed, either broadly in the Core Strategy or more precisely as particular allocations.

*Checklist*

- Has a local needs assessment been undertaken to identify which facilities should be protected?
- Have specific sites been allocated for sports interests, as a result of a needs assessment and/or as part of new development?
- Where existing facilities are identified for development, has consideration (based on the findings of facility assessments) been given to whether a linked site specific allocation is required for providing replacement facilities or whether replacement provision should be made through other measures (e.g. financial contributions in lieu of direct replacement provision)?
- Can it be verified that allocation of existing or former sports facilities for development (without replacement provision being made) will only be acceptable if it has been satisfactorily demonstrated through a detailed assessment that there is an excess of facility provision within the catchment and no demand exists for replacement facility provision?
- Has the provision of sports facilities been considered as part of the wider development of community infrastructure, thus forging links between policy areas?

## Area Action Plans (AAPs)

AAPs cover areas of significant development, or urban expansion, or regeneration opportunities, or “sensitive areas”, or areas which are the focus of various area based initiatives (ABIs). AAPs should focus upon implementation. AAPs will not only deal with urban areas of significant change or development, but also areas of conservation and landscape management (both high quality and degraded landscapes), which may be equally relevant to Sport England’s agenda for sport and active recreation in the countryside. The PPS12 Companion Guide (p.102) identifies some specific activities associated with producing an AAP.

- Undertake an overview of issues, natural resources, needs and constraints facing the area action plan area, and how these relate to the wider spatial strategy for the local planning authority area as a whole.
- Develop a spatial vision and spatial objectives for the area.
- Consider linkages with policies in the regional spatial strategy.
- Consider linkages with policies in other development plan documents, establishing the chain of conformity with these.
- Consider linkages and fit with other local strategies and initiatives including the community strategy, strategies for regeneration area and the local transport plan.
- Set out details of the locations, type, allocations and quantum of proposed development.
- Summarise the proposed strategy, including options for development which may include:
- Quantum and locations of development including sites;
  - Proposed improvements to community infrastructure (education, health, leisure etc.) to meet additional needs resulting from development;
  - Outline details of planning gain that will be sought, and any other criteria for development (e.g. accessibility standards); and
  - Outline strategy for maximising positive impacts (e.g. training initiatives) and mitigating negative impacts.
- Set out details of the implementation framework.
- Set out details of the monitoring framework, including relevant targets and indicators.
- Explain consultation arrangements.

### *How should sport be represented?*

Sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the development of AAPs, and should be considered as part both development and implementation of the document. The protection, enhancement or provision of sport and recreation facilities relating to a specific district or neighbourhood should be at the heart the planning activity, complemented by attention to sport’s role in the promotion of wider objectives such regeneration and health improvement. Where appropriate sport can be put at the heart of communities through innovative schemes such as a neighbourhood centre or dual-use facilities. Proposals in AAPs should provide a firm basis for assessing how facilities can be funded, and what potential there is for the negotiation of planning obligations, particularly where there is the opportunity to undertake comprehensive masterplanning.

### *Checklist*

- Have sport and recreation issues been addressed within the AAP, in respect of the protection and enhancement of facilities and/or opportunities for new provision where new development is planned?
- Are there opportunities to address sport and recreation issues within AAPs covering areas of comprehensive regeneration?
- In all cases, are policies and proposals based on a comprehensive assessment of need, using data from the PPG17 assessment, other relevant sport and recreation strategies and any area-specific studies conducted as part of the preparation of the evidence base for the AAP and associated SA/SEA?
- Have Sport England's resources relating to Active Design, and the attendant principles of improving accessibility, enhancing amenity and increasing awareness been reviewed?

### **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

SPD deal with various subjects such as design guides, site development briefs, issue and thematic based documents. These are not formal Development Plan Documents and are thus not subject to independent examination. SPD provide the opportunity to expand upon policy in the suite of DPDs with the specific intention to show how policy can be best implemented. PPS12 Companion Guide (p.24) suggests that SPD should:

- be consistent with the policies in national policy and be in general conformity with the relevant regional spatial strategy;
- be in conformity with and clearly cross-referenced to the relevant development plan document(s) policies they support;
- be reviewed on a regular basis alongside reviews of development plan document policies to which they relate;
- be produced through community involvement, in accordance with the statement of community involvement;
- set out clearly their status – they should be subject to a council resolution to adopt as a local development document;
- state how they have been prepared together with a statement of compliance explaining how their preparation relates to the statement of community involvement; and
- expand or supplement policy in development plan documents, but must not be used to avoid policies being subject to independent examination.

#### *How should sport be represented?*

There may be opportunities dealing with specific sport and recreation issues, or for the integration between sports provision, health and community needs, through the preparation of SPDs. Sport England has developed guidance for the preparation of SPDs which gives advice on the potential content of SPDs, both for sport-related SPDs and for addressing the interests of sport in Planning Obligations.

#### *Checklist*

- Has the opportunity to develop a SPD on open space, sport and recreation to expand upon policies set out in the Core Strategy and other DPDs been taken?
- Does the SPD take a comprehensive view of sport and recreation issues, using an appropriate evidence base (specifically a PPG17-compliant assessment) and making connections between policy areas?

- Are the interests of sport and recreation noted within a more general Planning Obligations SPD?
- What are the arrangements for monitoring the implementation of SPDs that have been produced (such as through the setting of targets for open space) and can these outputs be used elsewhere to track the effects of policy?

## **Development Control Policies**

This document sets out criteria against which planning applications will be considered. Its purpose is to improve the efficiency of development control procedures through adopting a structured approach to decision-making, and offer advice on the type of information to be supplied with a planning application. PPS12 advises that the focus should be on a limited number of generic policies rather than many individual policies, and that these should be underpinned by an evidence base that can be used to inform and defend planning decisions.

*How should sport be represented?*

Sport and recreation interests could be represented through general policies governing proposals for sport-related development or in more specific policies relating to specific activities, locations or facilities.

### *Checklist*

- Has there been an identification of key factors in the district which could impact upon the way in which the sport facilities are protected, provided and enhanced?
- Has there been anticipation of the need for sport and recreation facilities through development of a sound evidence base, using the various resources available relating to facility planning and gauging demand?
- Is there suitable cross-referencing to advice such as design guidance which can assist in delivering better quality facilities?
- Has there been a consideration of where conditions and obligations might be best employed to advance the interests of sport and recreation as part of measures to protect, enhance and compensate facility provision?
- Is there a recognition of the contribution that sport might offer to achieving aspirations across a range of areas, particularly in mixed use developments and as catalyst in stimulating development?
- Is there effort to ensure that planning applications are submitted with adequate information through the use of: early negotiation, checklists, needs assessments and consultation with interested parties?

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

In preparing LDDs, Local Authorities are required to carry out a sustainability appraisal (SA) of their plans, policies and programmes. SA assists in promoting sustainable development through integrating sustainability considerations into plan making.

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act (2004), Local Development Documents (LDDs) must be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA process

assists Local Authorities to fulfil the requirement of “contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development” in spatial and land use plan making. In preparing LDDs, Local Authorities are also required to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with European and UK legislation. SA assists in promoting sustainable development through integrating sustainability considerations into plan making. It is an iterative, ongoing process and integral to plan making. SEA considers the effects of the emerging LDDs on the environment. It must predict and evaluate the significant effects of Plan alternatives and propose measures to offset any adverse effects identified.

Through the establishment of objectives for sustainable development, sport and recreation should be recognised as an important part of the sustainable development of a local authority area. The interests of sport and recreation can be used to help advance sustainable development with in the LDF, particularly through establishing connections between policy areas where it has perhaps traditionally been difficult to do so.

*How should sport be represented?*

Through the establishment of objectives for sustainable development, sport and recreation should be recognised as an important part of the sustainable development of a local authority area. Sport is perhaps uniquely placed to contribute to a wide agenda which covers the protection and enhancement of quality of life, environmental character and socio-economic health. The interests of sport and recreation can thus be used to help advance sustainable development with in the LDF, particularly through establishing connections between policy areas where it has perhaps traditionally been difficult to do so (see Principles of Spatial Planning).

*Checklist*

- Have appropriate documents such as the Regional Plan for Sport and a local Sport and Recreation/Leisure/Culture Strategy been used to inform the development of sustainability objectives?
- Is sport and recreation included within/referred by at least one of the sustainability objectives?
- Is there cross-referencing between objectives such that the wider contribution of sport and recreation, in respect of economic and social well-being, is recognised?
- Are appropriate indicators attached to that objective relating to the delivery of sport and recreation, such as: open space/facilities assessment; participation in sport and active recreation; and assessment of accessibility and quality of provision? See example.
- Is there an evidence base, notably a PPG17-compliant assessment of open space and facility provision, available to appraise the contribution of sport and recreation to securing sustainability objectives?

### **3. EXAMINATION AND ADOPTION**

All development plan documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination, part of which involves the application of a series of ‘tests of soundness’ These benchmark the expected content of the plan through asking a series

of key questions and identifying appropriate supporting evidence. Sport England will consider whether the impact of the DPD on their interests merits formal representations at the examination stage.

Following the examination, the Inspector's Report will set out recommendations for changes to the development plan document which will be binding upon the local planning authority. Once the authority has integrated the changes, it will adopt the development plan document and incorporate it into the local development framework. Upon adoption of the document, a statement of how the sustainability appraisal process has been taken into account should be made available to the public. The adopted DPD will become the operative part of the development plan against which planning applications will be determined under S 38 (6) of the 2004 Act.

*How should sport be represented?*

The role of sport and active recreation in helping to deliver a rounded plan should form part of the response to the Tests of Soundness. This could include the existence of a robust evidence base, consultation with Sport England over the development of policy and demonstration of the use of national and regional policy frameworks.

*Soundness Requirements*

**(i) Justified**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Key questions</b>	<b>Sport-related aspects</b>
<i>Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</li> </ul>	Inclusion of Sport England as a statutory consultee on developments affecting playing fields and informal consultee on policy development and other development control matters.
<i>Research/factfinding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the content of the DPD justified by the evidence? What is the source of the evidence? How up to date is it and how convincing is it?</li> <li>What assumptions had to be made in preparing the DPD? Are the assumptions reasonable and justified?</li> </ul>	<p>Development and application of a robust evidence base through a PPG17 Assessment of the supply of, and need for, recreational facilities.</p> <p>Use of regional and local strategies which assist with the consideration of alternatives, including regional plans for sport and local sport and recreation strategies, sustainable community strategies and cultural strategies.</p>
<i>Alternatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives?</li> <li>Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred strategy/approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why these decisions were taken?</li> <li>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</li> <li>Does the DPD adequately expand upon regional guidance rather than simply duplicate it? Does the strategy take forward the regional context reflecting the local issues and objectives?</li> </ul>	Inclusion of sport-related objectives, indicators and evidence using a range of sources such as Active Places.

## (ii) Effective

Theme	Key questions	Sport-related aspects
<i>Deliverable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</li> <li>• Are there any cross-boundary issues that should be addressed and, if so, have they been adequately addressed?</li> <li>• Does the DPD contain clear objectives?</li> <li>• Are the objectives specific to the place; as opposed to being general and applicable to anywhere? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues and the objectives?</li> <li>• Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</li> <li>• Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</li> <li>• Are the policies internally consistent?</li> <li>• Does the DPD contain material that is already in another DPD, should logically be in a different DPD or not be in a DPD at all?</li> <li>• Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</li> <li>• If there are development management policies, are they supportive of the strategy and objectives?</li> <li>• Have the infrastructure implications of the strategy/policies clearly been identified?</li> <li>• Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified?</li> <li>• Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the strategy/policies?</li> <li>• Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the strategy/DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies?</li> <li>• Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for development and the use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies/organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</li> <li>• Does the DPD take into account matters which may be imposed by circumstance, notwithstanding the LPA's views about the matter?</li> </ul>	<p>Cross-checking that DPDs have due regard to national, regional and local sport strategies in general and policy-specific terms. This should include reference to regional plans for sport and local sport and recreation strategies, sustainable community strategies and cultural strategies.</p> <p><b>Demonstration of the use of national and regional policy guidance to frame and justify policy development. This should include specific reference to the duty outlined in PPS1 of local planning authorities to promote healthy communities, and the specific requirements set out in PPG17 for assessments of supply of, and need for, recreational facilities, the protection of facilities and opportunities for securing additional provision through planning contributions.</b></p> <p>Demonstration of how cross-boundary sport interests area are being represented, including the outcome of any joint studies undertaken.</p>
<i>Flexible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances?</li> <li>• Is the DPD sufficiently flexible to deal with any changes to, for example, housing figures from an emerging RSS?</li> <li>• Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the strategies/policies are failing?</li> </ul>	<p>Flexibility of policies for sport to respond to changes in need, demand or other circumstances, using data from an up-to-date evidence base.</p> <p>Evidence of the sensitivity testing of policies e.g. response to housing/population growth.</p> <p>Wider contingency planning for changes in circumstance or policy.</p>

<p><i>Monitoring</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the DPD contain targets and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations?</li> <li>• Is it clear how these are to be measured and are these linked to the production of the Annual Monitoring Report?</li> <li>• Are suitable targets and indicators present (by when, how and by whom)?</li> </ul>	<p>Targets and milestones for sport developed, linked to the Annual Monitoring Report.</p> <p>Mechanisms and timescales set for policy implementation.</p> <p>Representations considered for site-specific allocations.</p> <p>Mechanisms established for the monitoring of policy implementation, such as the loss/creation of sports facilities and developer contributions to sports facilities.</p>
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**(iii) National Policy**

<p>Consistency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy, and if so is there local justification?</li> <li>• Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included?</li> </ul>	
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## Appendix: Sport England’s Planning Aspirations and Objectives

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p><b>A planned approach</b></p> <p>It is part of the function of the planning system to ensure that adequate land and water resources are allocated for sport. Local planning authorities should assess local needs for sport and recreational facilities as part of the development planning process.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure that a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities for sport and recreation is taken by planning authorities in order to meet the needs of the local community. The level of provision should be determined locally, based on local assessments of need and take account of wider than local requirements for strategic or specialist facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encompass a planned approach to the provision of sports facilities based on sound assessments of current and future needs for strategic and local sports facilities, which take account of any deficiencies;</li> <li>support a mix of facilities which comprise strategic, local and specialist facilities;</li> <li>take account of the priorities set out in local sports strategies, and national governing body facility strategies; and</li> <li>take account of cross-boundary issues for major or specialist facilities which have extensive catchment areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting existing places for sport</b></p> <p>The protection of existing sports facilities and access to natural resources used for sport is vital for its continued development, the overall quality of life and protection of the environment. However, as sport is a relatively low value land use, sports facilities are often under pressure from other forms of development.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 2: To prevent the loss of facilities or access to natural resources which are important in terms of sports development. Should redevelopment be unavoidable, an equivalent (or better) replacement facility should be provided in a suitable location.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seek to protect or enhance existing sites and facilities and access to natural resources which are important for sport;</li> <li>identify important sites for sport on the proposals map for protection (including open space and playing fields and facilities which provide access to natural resources such as launching and landing facilities); and</li> <li>require at least an equivalent replacement in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility if the loss of a facility is unavoidable, unless it can be proved that the facility is genuinely redundant and there is no demand for a replacement based on a thorough local assessment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Significant Areas for Sport</b></p> <p>Sport England has been concerned over the loss of, and threats to, areas which are of significance for different sports, particularly where they are of national and regional importance.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 3: To prevent the loss or partial loss of any identified ‘Significant Area for Sport’ (SASP) to other uses unless an equivalent or improved replacement in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility to the original facility or resource is provided.</p> <p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 4: To support the extension, upgrading or enhancement of any identified ‘Significant Area for Sport’ in the interests of sports development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and list any SASPs within the plan area, including their identification on the proposals map;</li> <li>seek to protect SASPs from inappropriate forms of development; and</li> <li>allow for the upgrading and enhancement of any SASP where this will further the interests of sports development at the facility and can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessing playing pitch requirements</b></p> <p>Playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England, as well as making a significant contribution to informal recreation, amenity and the environment. The number, quality and location of pitches required for the playing of pitch sports will vary at the local level according to local participation rates in the</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 5: To promote detailed local assessments of playing field requirements using the methodology as outlined in ‘Towards a level Playing Field’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make use of playing pitch assessments and strategies to identify the adequacy of existing provision to meet community needs for pitch sports;</li> <li>encourage greater community access to playing fields currently under private or educational ownership;</li> <li>encourage improvements to the overall quality of playing fields, e.g. through improved drainage or the provision of changing facilities;</li> <li>ensure that adequate funds are secured for maintenance where new or enhanced playing fields are provided in</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>various sports and the size and age structure of the population. Local Planning Authorities should carry out proper assessments of requirements for current and future generations to prevent unacceptable and avoidable loss of playing fields to other uses.</p>		<p>relation to new development; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clearly indicate the role of S106 agreements in helping to achieve the above policies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protection of playing fields for sport</b></p> <p>Playing fields are a scarce resource which, once lost to other forms of development, can rarely be replaced. In many areas there are severe pressures to develop playing fields for other uses, particularly in urban areas where they can attract high land values for residential development. Despite the encouragement of Sport England (see Assessing Playing Pitch requirements), in many local authority areas there are still no clear policy guidelines based on a careful assessment of need.</p>	<p><b>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 6:</b> To ensure that there is no further reduction in the supply of conveniently located, quality playing fields for sport to satisfy current and likely future demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resist the loss of sports pitches except in the following circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.</li> <li>- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.</li> <li>- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of, or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facility on the site.</li> <li>- The playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development.</li> <li>- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning new places for sport</b></p> <p>Sport is subject to the same pressure to change and develop as other activities. Participation is increasing and evolving year on year, generating demand for additional facilities. New activities are gaining popularity, some of which may require purpose built specialist sports facilities, whilst others can be</p>	<p><b>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 7:</b> To support the development of new facilities, the enhancement of existing facilities and the provision and/or improvement of access to the natural environment which will secure opportunities to take part in sport and which can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the need for new facilities to cater for a wide range of sporting activities based on sound assessments of existing provision and any deficiencies, future population growth and rates of participation;</li> <li>• take account of the priorities set out in local sports strategies and/or Local Cultural Strategies, national Facilities Strategies of governing bodies of sport and other sport specific strategies;</li> <li>• identify sites and make allocations for sporting uses, including playing fields, on the proposals map as far as</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>accommodated in flexibly designed community facilities. Some existing facilities are in need of redevelopment or refurbishment to take account of changing activities and the higher expectations of users.</p>		<p>possible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish criteria for the assessment of other sports facility development proposals; and</li> <li>• identify partnership opportunities with organisations working in the natural environment for the enhancement of facilities or access to natural resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Providing for sport through new development</b></p> <p>Government guidance recognises the legitimate use of planning obligations to secure the provision of public open space and sporting, social, educational or other community facilities. Although sport has benefited from the use of planning obligations in the past, Sport England believes that the planning system can deliver a better deal for sport through new development.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 8: To promote the use of planning obligations as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• indicate the circumstances in which planning obligations will be sought;</li> <li>• use the support of local assessments of community requirements likely to be generated by new development and which take account of the adequacy of existing provision and local Sport and Recreation Plans/Strategies;</li> <li>• ensure that adequate provision of sports facilities is secured as part of major new residential development. Additional requirements could be specified in a development brief;</li> <li>• seek developer contributions from small scale residential developments towards new or enhanced provision where the development will create additional demand or place additional pressure on existing sports facilities;</li> <li>• where it is not practicable to provide new facilities as an integral part of a new development, seek contributions towards off-site provision or enhancement which is directly related to the development;</li> <li>• seek financial contributions to the long-term maintenance of any new facilities provided as a result of a new development; and</li> <li>• encourage the provision of more places for sport in association with major commercial and retail developments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shared use sites</b></p> <p>Making fuller use of existing resources contributes to sustainable development objectives by reducing the need for additional facilities and the potential loss of scarce resources such as open space. The practice of making school sports facilities available to wider community use is already well established and has been government policy for many years, but there are further opportunities to extend this principle within the education sector through programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and City Academies and to other privately owned sports facilities, to help meet the growing demand for more and better places for sport in convenient locations.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 9: To promote the wider use of existing and new sports facilities to serve more than one group of users. Sport England will encourage potential providers to consider opportunities for joint provision and dual use of facilities in appropriate locations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the wider community use of existing sports facilities particularly on school sites, other educational establishments, MoD sites and private facilities owned by businesses;</li> <li>• encourage the development of new sports facilities which will serve more than one major group of users;</li> <li>• encourage the shared use of facilities between sport and other activities in designated areas to help reduce the impact on the environment;</li> <li>• encourage the enhancement of potential sites, for example, by allowing additional changing facilities, floodlighting and car parking where necessary, to facilitate greater use; and</li> <li>• balance the impact that more intensive use of a site may have on nearby residents with the benefits provided to the wider community.</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p><b>The Urban Fringe</b></p> <p>The countryside around urban areas tends to be highly accessible by public transport, by car and on foot or cycle. It already plays an important role in meeting the needs of many urban communities offering footpaths and bridleways, sports grounds and access to the wider countryside. The need for a positive approach to the management and development of the urban fringe is now widely recognised, as are the benefits that sport can bring.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 10: To promote the urban fringe as an important resource in providing opportunities for sport, and support proposals for improved access for sport, for the development of extensive facilities such as golf courses and pitches, and for built facilities which can be developed in a way which meets sustainable development objectives and which helps to maintain and improve the identity of this resource.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support measures to increase access to the urban fringe for sport including changes of use from agriculture to sports uses;</li> <li>• recognise the role the urban fringe can play in providing sites for sports that require extensive areas of land;</li> <li>• support the provision or relocation of built facilities for sport within the urban fringe where there is clear demand for the facility and where no suitable site within the urban area can be found;</li> <li>• encourage the restoration and imaginative use of redundant or degraded land, buildings and water areas for sporting uses; and</li> <li>• apply the sequential test to the location of new facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Green Belt</b></p> <p>By virtue of its location adjoining urban areas and comprising essentially open land, the Green Belt makes an ideal location for outdoor sports facilities and can accommodate a wide range of sports close to major centres of population. PPG 2 recognises outdoor sport as an appropriate land use in the Green Belt and advises that new buildings which provide essential facilities for outdoor sport, including changing rooms and small spectator accommodation, may be developed.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 11: To promote the development of outdoor sports facilities in the Green Belt including essential ancillary built facilities. In exceptional circumstances Sport England will support the development of indoor or other built facilities associated with outdoor sports, where there is an identified need and no suitable site is available elsewhere in the locality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage the provision of outdoor sport facilities in the Green Belt which help to sustain community life;</li> <li>• identify suitable sites for outdoor strategic sports facilities where there is a clearly identified demand for such facilities and where no suitable site exists elsewhere in the locality;</li> <li>• set out criteria against which ancillary built facilities will be considered; and</li> <li>• recognise that there may be circumstances where floodlit facilities are appropriate in the Green Belt subject to satisfactory management arrangements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community forests and other woodlands</b></p> <p>The 12 Community Forests cover extensive areas of land close to the main urban centres in England. They already provide a wide range of opportunities for informal sporting activity and include within their boundaries a number of more formal sports facilities ranging from water areas to sports pitches and built facilities. Their location offers a significant opportunity to make a range of opportunities accessible to many millions of people, particularly for those sports which rely on the natural environment.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 12: To support the integration of facilities and opportunities for participation in sport in Community Forests, and support the principle of using other woodlands, particularly those near major centres of population, in a similar way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage sporting developments as an integral part of community forest developments;</li> <li>• recognise the potential for some built sports facilities within community forests;</li> <li>• seek opportunities to provide new and improved access to sport in community forests; and</li> <li>• protect sites used for sport within community forests.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sport in the countryside and coastal areas</b></p> <p>Access to the countryside and coast is essential for a wide range of sports, but current provision is</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 13: To support and promote the use of natural resources for sport in a way which meets sustainable development objectives. Sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take a planned approach to the provision of sites for sports requiring extensive sites in the countryside, for example golf courses, airfields, motorsports venues;</li> <li>• consider the provision of new facilities</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>insufficient in many areas. Where access does exist it is frequently under threat either from competing land uses or from actual or perceived conflicts from other users or with nature conservation. Most of these losses could be prevented by improved planning or better and more positive management.</p>	<p>England considers that development proposals for sport should be based on the 'Best Available Place' principle. This involves a planned approach to the provision and protection of sites and facilities, including the assessment of the impact of any sports use and a commitment to appropriate management measures.</p> <p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 14: Where management solutions have been tried and shown not to work due to irreconcilable conflict, then alternative locations should be found to accommodate the displaced sports activities, to a similar or improved standard.</p>	<p>in line with the 'Best Available Place' principle;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to protect significant areas for sport (SASPs) from other development, taking account of NGB Whole Sport Plans;</li> <li>• seek to maintain and improve access to the countryside for sport and ensure that any reduction in the level of activities possible is contingent upon the development of suitable alternative provision of at least equal quality;</li> <li>• allow for farm diversification into sport and recreation;</li> <li>• promote the use of good management practices to balance the legitimate needs of sport with amenity, environmental and other interests; and</li> <li>• recognise the need for ancillary facilities essential to the operation of some sports activities and venues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Access to the countryside</b></p> <p>Sport is one of the most rapidly growing areas of leisure. Growth in traditional activities in the countryside such as walking and horse riding has been complemented by newer activities such as mountain biking, and access to the countryside via the public rights of way network is a pre-requisite for participation.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 15: To support the public rights of way network in its role of offering the single most important means by which people can get into and enjoy the countryside.</p> <p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 16: To support measures to protect, enhance and develop the network and other permissive routes that provide opportunities to access the countryside by foot, bicycle and horse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to protect and enhance the Public Rights Of Way (PROW) network and other permissive access routes. Where it is necessary to divert a right of way, replacement of equivalent accessibility, convenience and attractiveness should be provided;</li> <li>• identify and safeguard the sporting potential of disused railway tracks and river corridors;</li> <li>• identify and prioritise gaps in the network as part of a wider access strategy for sport;</li> <li>• seek to enhance links between urban areas, villages and the wider countryside;</li> <li>• secure access to watersides and other areas through new development opportunities; and</li> <li>• promote the development of National Trails, the National Cycle Network, Greenways, canal towpath and other strategic and local access initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Parks</b></p> <p>National Parks, including the Norfolk Broads and the New Forest Heritage Area, are an important resource for sport, and provide opportunities for millions of people each year to participate in their chosen activity.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 17: To maintain and improve opportunities for sport in the National Parks (including The Broads) and to ensure that existing and new activities are managed and developed in a way which meets the purposes of National Park designation and sustainable development objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to maintain and improve opportunities for outdoor sport in National Parks;</li> <li>• promote the use of good management practices to balance the legitimate needs of sport with other interests;</li> <li>• do not seek to impose a blanket ban on certain sporting activities within National Parks;</li> <li>• take account of the sporting needs of the resident community within National Parks; and</li> <li>• seek to identify sites for possible counter attractions which may relieve the pressure on the most sensitive areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other nationally designated areas</b></p> <p>Specific areas designated by statute include Areas of</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 18: To protect and enhance existing places for outdoor sport in nationally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect and enhance existing places for sport and access to them in nationally designated areas;</li> <li>• promote access to new places for sport</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Any of these designated areas could be an important resource for sport. It is important that those responsible for the management of these areas take into account the wider needs of the community, including demand for sport, insofar as these are compatible with the reasons for designation.</p>	<p>designated areas and promote access to new places where the use is compatible with the objectives of designation. Where there is a conflict, a management solution should be sought. If reconciliation is not possible and a reduction in the use of the area by sport is required, Sport England will seek the provision of alternative provision to an equal standard.</p>	<p>within nationally designated areas where the scale and nature of activity is compatible with the objectives of the designation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do not seek to impose a blanket ban on sporting activities within designated areas;</li> <li>• allow for the development of ancillary facilities for sport where there is a clear demand and where they do not compromise the reason for the designation;</li> <li>• encourage the reuse of existing buildings within these areas for sporting purposes; and</li> <li>• seek equivalent replacement sites where places for sport are lost as a result of irreconcilable conflict.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Locally designated areas</b></p> <p>These include local landscape designations such as Areas of Great Landscape Value and Special Landscape Areas, green gaps or wedges, and local nature conservation designations. Many development plans include local non-statutory designation, notwithstanding the advice contained in PPS7. These areas may, however, offer locations for sport, especially those activities displaced from, or not acceptable within, nationally designated areas, as well as offering local opportunities. Frequently, development plans use non-statutory designations to create another layer of exclusion of sporting use.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 19: To promote policies which protect and enhance existing, and provide new, places for sport outside nationally designated areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect and enhance existing places for sport and access to them in locally designated areas;</li> <li>• promote access to new places for sport within locally designated areas where the scale and nature of activity is compatible with the objectives of the designation;</li> <li>• do not seek to impose a blanket ban on sporting activities within locally designated areas;</li> <li>• allow for the development of ancillary facilities for sport where there is a clear demand and where they do not compromise the reason for the designation; and</li> <li>• encourage the re-use of existing buildings within these areas for sporting purposes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Floodlighting</b></p> <p>Floodlighting is now an integral part of many sports facilities, particularly hard-surfaced areas such as synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts, and practice facilities such as golf driving ranges. Floodlighting and the intensification of use it can bring can, however, be intrusive in some locations. This can be an issue in both urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 20: To support the installation of floodlighting of sports facilities where this will lead to a significant increase in opportunities for sport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow for the installation of floodlighting of sports facilities where it will lead to a significant increase in the opportunities for sport;</li> <li>• are not overly-restrictive in relation to hours of use; and</li> <li>• take account of the need to protect residential amenity by seeking to minimise the impact of light pollution from lighting systems through sensitive siting and design, and of the intensification of use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Synthetic turf pitches and Multi-Use Games Areas</b></p> <p>Full size synthetic turf pitches (STPs) and their smaller counterparts multi-use games areas (MUGAs) can accommodate higher levels of use than the equivalent area of natural grass, the only constraint being the time available.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 21: To support the development for sporting use of floodlit synthetic turf pitches and hard-surfaced multi-use games areas as an integral part of community sports provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognise the value of STPs and MUGAs in areas where there is a limited number of natural turf pitches available;</li> <li>• ensure that there is a range of different types of STP's to meet the needs of a range of sports;</li> <li>• encourage facilities in locations which are accessible to the catchment population, giving priority to access by</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>This quality, along with the consistent surface, makes them ideal facilities for intensive play and for coaching purposes. Because of the extended periods of activity possible, the use of floodlighting and the numbers of users these facilities can accommodate, particular care must be taken in choosing a location.</p>		<p>walking, cycling and public transport and which take account of the need to protect residential amenity by seeking to minimise the disturbance; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage new provision on educational sites with community access.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stadia</b></p> <p>In view of the scale of the development and the issues involved, it is important that local planning authorities provide clear guidance in development plans on both the need for new stadia and the locational criteria which will be used to guide prospective developers. Where relocation is the aim, consideration should be given to the potential to reuse derelict or reclaimed land and the proximity of any site to the traditional catchment area of the user(s).</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 22: To support a strategic approach to the identification of need for stadia and site selection so that any new developments can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives. To encourage, where possible, a contribution towards urban regeneration objectives and the provision of community benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify the need for new stadia based on a strategic assessment;</li> <li>seek to identify and allocate sites where the relocation of a facility is required, based on a framework of locational criteria including access to public transport, availability of alternative sites and minimisation of both environmental impacts and impacts on neighbouring uses; and</li> <li>encourage provision of community sports facilities as part of proposals for new stadia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Golf facilities</b></p> <p>A considerable number of new golf courses were built in the 1980s and early 1990s in response to a perceived demand for additional facilities. Although the rate of development has slowed down considerably in recent years, there remains a steady throughput of golf-related proposals in the planning system.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 23: To support the development in appropriate locations of additional facilities for golf which meet an identified need and in particular encourage the provision of 'pay and play' facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify the need for new golf facilities taking into account the supply of existing facilities, demand based on participation rates, and an analysis of the catchment areas of existing facilities. The onus will be on applicants to demonstrate need in accordance with the strategies of Sport England and the governing bodies of golf;</li> <li>allocate sites or identify criteria for the location of new golf courses and driving ranges in appropriate locations near to potential users, taking into account issues of accessibility, especially by public transport, opportunities to reuse existing buildings, the potential to enhance areas of degraded landscape, and effect on neighbours;</li> <li>seek to minimise the environmental impacts of golf developments, particularly in nationally designated areas of nature conservation or landscape value and areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and</li> <li>encourage community access to existing and new facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noise-generating sports</b></p> <p>A number of sports, including shooting, motorsports, powered air sports, water skiing and the use of personal water craft can generate levels of noise which, in certain locations, may be intrusive and disturbing to people and</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 24: To support the provision of opportunities for motorised sports and gun sports (clay pigeon shooting and target sports) in appropriate locations and to seek to ensure that proper consideration is given to such development in land use development plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and allocate sites for noise-generating sports in locations where their environmental impact can be minimised;</li> <li>use a sound assessment of the adequacy of existing sites and the demand for new and extended ones;</li> <li>include positively worded criteria for site selection rather than operate a general presumption against</li> </ul>

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>wildlife. However, great strides have been taken to minimise noise through noise attenuation techniques. Like all sports which rely on access to extensive areas of land or water, these activities are under considerable pressure from other forms of development (encroaching or reusing the site) and from environmental interests (wanting the cessation of activities).</p>		<p>development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to ensure that proposals will minimise conflicts with other users and interests; and</li> <li>• seek to utilise, wherever possible, existing degraded or brownfield sites where the environmental impact is minimised.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Watersports</b> Participation in water-based sports has increased steadily in recent years with newer activities, such as the use of personal water craft (jet skis), adding to the demand. The increasing number of national nature conservation and landscape designations has increased the potential for conflict between sport and environmental interests. Conflicts may also arise between different sports.</p>	<p><b>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 25:</b> To protect, improve, and bring into use new resources for water-based sport. To reduce potential conflicts between the sports use and the environment and between different users through good management practice and by the use of codes of conduct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to protect appropriate water resources, and access to them, for sport, taking account of the need to avoid overcrowding and of access across land;</li> <li>• resist developments that would have an adverse effect on the sporting potential of inland waters and the coast;</li> <li>• promote the use of appropriate water resources for sport activities whilst taking account of nature conservation interests;</li> <li>• allow for the provision of ancillary facilities for example boathouses and slipways where there is an identified need, subject to nature conservation interests;</li> <li>• seek to bring into sporting use formerly redundant water bodies and identify opportunities to make best sporting use of newly created water bodies; and</li> <li>• seek management solutions to conflicts between sport and nature conservation interests and between different sports.</li> </ul>